The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting and occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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MUSTY STATES RIGHTS' CLAIM NOW USED AGAINST CHILDREN

Child labor is a national problem. It has been made so by the refusal of states to protect children.

The evils of child labor can not be restricted or confined to the section where little ones are exploited.

The public health, safety and morality make it more than a provincial question. It is not a matter of town, city, county or state regulation. It is nation-wide in its scope and effect.

Twice has congress attempted to regulate child labor. In each instance the act was declared unconstitutional by the supreme court.

Congress now submits a constitutional amendment to the states and the cry is raised that this interferes with states' rights.

It is significant that when congress voted for a national child labor law, states' rights was hardly discussed.

The proposed amendment will legalize laws that the supreme court invalidated. It will permit congress to do what the supreme court denied.

Why did states' rights advocates remain silent when congress passed these two national child labor laws, and why do they now loudly claim that child labor regulation is a state matter?

Did fabricators of child labor "guess" that the supreme court would declare the two laws unconstitutional?

If the abolition of lotteries and state banks are national, rather than state questions, why not abolition of child labor?

If the control of drugs and narcotics is a national problem, why can't congress protect its future citizens against physical and mental deterioration?

In campaigns against cattle diseases, government agents destroy live stock to check the disease. The cry of "government interference" is not raised. Men who talk of states' rights are willing to have the federal government aid them in protecting their cattle, but not their children.

In opposing the amendment the Georgia legislature said it would "destroy parental authority."

The amendment will do nothing of the kind. It will permit congress to pass a national child labor law, but there will be no objection to Georgia passing a better one.

"Parental authority" will not be interfered with any more than under state labor laws. Georgia accepts the principle of child labor regulation now.

The Georgia legislature also declared that the amendment "would place in the hands of congress a power to destroy agriculture and manufacturing at will."

That is demagoguery. These lawmakers should be reminded that congress has always had that power. More than 100 years ago Chief Justice Marshall of the United States supreme court said: "The power to tax is the power to destroy" (McCulloch vs. Maryland).

Congress has exercised that power against state banks, against oleomargarine, and on other occasions.

But that does not mean congress would attempt national suicide by destroying the country's greatest activities.

A strong public opinion must be developed in favor of treating child labor as a national issue.

From the standpoint of self-preservation alone, today's citizens should insist that tomorrow's citizens are mentally and physically equipped to defend their country and carry on its great purposes.

Our constitution was never intended to be a barrier to progress. It was never intended to be a concrete mold. It is not rigid and inflexible.

Our constitution must expand as our needs warrant.

CHILD LABOR CHECK REJECTED IN GEORGIA

Atlanta, Ga., July 12.—By an almost unanimous vote both houses of the state legislature rejected the child labor amendment to the federal constitution. The vote was overwhelming on the rock of states' rights.

The 1920 census showed more than 89,000 children between the ages of 10 and 15 gainfully employed in this state.

This condition was ignored by the Georgia legislators, who declared in a screaming resolution, that the proposed amendment "would give a convocable support to a rebellion of childhood which menaces our civilization, would give congress not only parental authority but all state authority over education, would destroy local self-government, would eventuate the states and change our plan of government from a federal union to a consolidated republic and create a centralized government far removed from the power of the people."

The legislators continued their frightful prophecies, and said if the amendment is adopted "a system of slavery will be established and congress will be placed "in control in every home in the land."

"Said proposed amendment," the legislators continue, "is further rejected because it would place in the hands of congress a power to destroy agriculture and manufacturing at will, is merely a hypocritical pretense at an effort to protect childhood from slavery, and is really intended to enslave the childhood of this republic."

COURTS AROUSE HATES BY LABOR INJUNCTION

Philadelphia, July 12.—In discussing the labor injunction at a meeting of lawyers in this city, Attorney-at-Senator Pepper emphasized the "growing bitterness of organized labor toward the federal courts." He said that under our system of government a well-nigh universal confidence in the judiciary is nearly essential to national safety.

Comparing the British and American attitude toward organized labor as reflected in legislation and legal policy, Senator Pepper said that Great Britain recognized peaceable picketing as a legitimate concomitant of a strike, and had trained the guns of criminal procedure upon conduct which threatens breach of the peace or invasion of private right. "What our British friends have done," he indicated," he said, "we seek to enjoin."

The growing bitterness of organized labor toward the federal courts "may easily develop into a revolutionary sentiment" if not checked, said Senator Pepper. During the great railroad strike of 1922, he said, nearly every one of the 261 class 1 railroads applied for injunctions and that a dozen application was denied, nearly 300 orders being issued.

"Naturally enough," continued the senator, "there have been bitter protests from the ranks of labor. To the sufferer it seems like tyranny to find such vast power exercised not by a jury of one's neighbors, but by a single official who is not elected, but appointed, and whose commission comes from distant and little understood sources."

OIL PROBE IN COURT

Washington, July 12.—The oil scandal is now in the courts, where those most directly affected have endeavored to place it since the first expose.

With the indictment of Fall, the two Dohenys and Sinclair the government will drag its weary way through the endless maze of red tape, precedents and decisions. The indicted men may be called for trial next October.

The senate oil probers have also been checked by a federal court rule that they can not force the brother of former Attorney General Daugherty to produce the books of Washington Court House (Ohio) bank. This question will be carried to the United States supreme court.

REPORT "A FAIR YEAR"

New York, July 12.—Large profits by the American car and foundry company is reported as the "best year" by officers of this corporation. After all charges were met and 7 per cent dividends on $30,000,000 stock were paid, earnings were equal to $14 on the same amount of common stock.

The company is classed with Allied Chemical, American Locomotive and other corporations noted for their well-stuffed treasuries. It is stated that if the company sold no equipment its dividends would be met through repair business.

TEXAS TYPOS ADVANCE

Fort Worth, Texas, July 12.—An increase of $3 a week for hand men has been won by newspaper printers. Machine men are also advanced. The revised scale is $45 and $48 a week.

UNION'S MEMBERSHIP IS NOT COURT ISSUE

New York, July 12.—Again has a high court ruled that voluntary associations, as a trade union, have sole control over their membership, and courts can not pass judgment on such control.

Affirmation of this rule was made by the appellate division of the supreme court in vacating an injunction secured by David Simons, former head of the Web Pressmen's union in this city, against President George L. Berry and other officers of the International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' union.

Simons directed the outlaw strike of pressmen in this city last fall. That union's charter was revoked and Simons was refused membership in the new local. He sued to compel the international officers to reinstate him and when he lost this case he secured a court order against officers of the international from interfering with him in any employment and from calling out the pressmen in any place in which he might be employed, because of such employment. This injunction has been set aside by the appellate division. The court said: "There is no doubt that defendant was within its rights in refusing plaintiff's application for membership." Concluding the opinion, Justice McAvoy said: "Plaintiff's contention, in effect, seems is that of a new applicant seeking to compel the defendant union to admit him. Whether or not the right of membership in a voluntary association is a matter under complete control of the organization and that the ruling is not subject to review by the courts.

The outlaw strike involved practically every newspaper in the city. The entire structure of contracts was jeopardized by the outlaws, and to maintain the integrity of its law the international was compelled to throw its resources against the illegal strike.

4,300,000 ILLITERATES CAN VOTE THIS ELECTION

Washington, July 12.—More than 4,300,000 illiterates can vote this fall for president and for members of congress, the convention of the National education association was informed by a committee that has studied this subject.

The report stated that although there are 4,931,905 acknowledged illiterates in America, the committee is confinced there are more than double this number who either were overlooked in census taking or who have concealed their illiteracy. The report emphasized that more than 2,000,000 of the acknowledged illiterates are native-born.

"Aside from a menace to government and handicap to citizenship," the report said, "the effects of illiteracy on commerce and labor are highly deleterious."

It was asserted that illiteracy of parents is the chief barrier to school attendance.

PRIVATE INTERESTS OPPOSE LABOR PLAN

Portland, Ore., July 12.—The bill providing for compulsory compensation in hazardous occupations will be placed on the November ballot. More than enough signatures have been secured for this initiative petition.

Private insurance companies and allied interests were unscrupulous in attempts to block circulators of the petitions. Friends of the measure organized the Oregon compulsory compensation league, and will continue the fight until the fall election. Trade unionists and sympathizers are preparing to meet the strongest opposition by the private companies.

ACTORS' EQUITY WINS

New York, July 12.—Supreme Court Justice Platzek has denied the application of the Actors' fidelity league for an injunction to restrain the Actors' equity association from carrying out an agreement with theatrical managers.

The fidelity league is a company "union," organized by the managers and provides that actors' strike in this city five years ago.

This is the second time Actors' Equity has won. On May 28 Justice McCook refused the same kind of an injunction, at the request of a handful of "blitter-end" theatrical managers who are backing the company "union" and who refuse to recognize Equity.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES

Washington, July 12.—Coal mine accidents during May killed 134 and killed 131 men, according to reports to the United States bureau of mines. For the first five months of 1924 the reports show 1,132 lives were lost.

OHIO UNIONS TO CONFER

Springfield, Ohio, July 12.—The annual convention of the Ohio state federation of labor will be held in this city, beginning Monday, September 8.

GARMENT INDUSTRY TO INSURE ITS IDLE

New York July 12.—A commission appointed by Governor Smith to adjust differences in the ladies' garment industry recommends that both employers and employed co-operate in maintaining an unemployment insurance fund. The chairman of the commission is George Gordon Battle, a prominent member of the bar. The plan was proposed by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union as a remedy for the out-of-work problem in this highly seasonal industry. The commission made this recommendation:

"The association shall co-operate with the union in establishing and maintaining an unemployment insurance fund for the benefit of the members of the union. The fund shall be made up of contributions from the manufacturers and the union or individual members of the union; the contribution of the employers to the unemployment insurance fund shall be equal to 2 per cent of the weekly pay roll and that of the workers to 2 per cent of their weekly wages. The fund shall be administered jointly under proper rules and provisions, to be agreed upon by both parties."

FAULTY LOCOMOTIVES ARE MENACE TO LIFE

Washington, July 12.—Railroad wrecks and defective locomotives are interesting the department of justice and the interstate commerce commission. These departments, it is stated, will ask congress for funds for the federal locomotive inspection law by providing heavy fines and jail penalties for inspectors who overlook obvious faulty equipment.

Trade unionists have repeatedly called attention to defects in this law and the futility of expecting safe equipment when the ranks of inspectors are supposed to examine approximately 8,000 locomotives that are operated on the 265,000 miles of railroad and housed or repaired at 4,600 places throughout the country.

In his annual report last year, Secretary of Commerce Hoover stated that "the losses to American industry from the present failure of locomotive equipment are now equal to the entire cost of government."

In all recent reports to the interstate commerce commission that that body probe railroad equipment, President Johnston of the International Association of Machinists said that 36.8 per cent of all locomotives on the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad "are chronically out of service and in need of repairs while on the Pennsylvania railroad the percentage is 42.2."

EMPLOYMENT DROPS

Washington, July 12.—Manufacturing employment in the United States during May increased 4.2 per cent in May, the bureau of statistics reports. Pay roll totals decreased 5.1 per cent and per capita earnings 1 per cent.

UNION ATTACK FAILS; PUBLIC AIDS WORKERS

Fresno, Cal., July 12.—This city has blocked an attack on organized labor.

Led by the Fresno Bee and the Fresno Republican, two daily newspapers, citizens declared that future business and loss of business has been the net result of citizens' alliance and American plan advocates, who were told their union-smashing policy is wrong.

The union wrecking plan was initiated when building craftsmen failed to renew their agreement with employers. Negotiations were not abandoned, but the anti-unionists, represented by the "valley industrial association" became active. Some business men joined the antis. Wages were reduced in lumber yards, and the association proclaimed its purpose to make the cuts general.

Citizens outside the labor movement refused to accept the new order, and as strike talk increased, so did protests against the antis.

The Fresno Bee called upon citizens to be no party to a movement that would deny workers a right that others enjoy.

The Fresno Republican took the same position. "Collective bargaining has arrived at a place of national recognition," that paper declared. "Men of influence in construction the country over are for it, as well as publicists."

This had its effect on the union smashers, whose plan collapsed as citizens refused to accept chaos for peace and order.

The building craftsmen and employers finally renewed their agreement, and the "valley industrial association" is thoroughly discredited.

MANY FAKE MORTGAGES COSTLY TO RENTERS

Washington, July 12.—A special grand jury will investigate charges that real estate dealers in this city boost prices by placing one, two, three and even four mortgages on property.

It has been found that large apartment houses are mortgaged more than double their market value, and it is necessary to increase rents to meet the inflated interest charges.

Investigators report that mortgages on 32 apartment houses total $9,000,000 more than was received for these properties the last time they were sold. Many of these buildings carry mortgages of more than $1,000,000 in excess of their cost.

Real estate companies organize fake corporations with their office managers as officials. In each transaction an additional mortgage is placed on the building and rents are increased to meet additional costs.

IGNORE LABOR LAW

Seattle, July 12.—The federal law provides that bunks more than two tiers high in forecastles of ships is illegal. This is of little moment to the Alaska steamship company, whose remodeled steamships have three-high bunks.

DEATHS IN OIL FIELDS

San Francisco, July 12.—There were 62 lives lost last year in the oil-producing industry of this state. These do not include fatalities at refineries, on tankers, or on any work not directly connected with the drilling for and the production of oil.

COAL MINERS' WAGES DON'T AFFECT PRICES

Indianapolis, July 12.—That anti-union claim that organized miners' wages are responsible for high coal prices is again proven untrue.

Miners' wages in anti-union fields have been reduced, but the mines have not operated more continuously than union mines, nor are the anti-union coal owners reducing the market price of their commodity.

Reports to headquarters of the United Mine Workers show that in the anti-union fields of West Virginia and Somerset county, Pennsylvania, wages are down to 1917 rates, and in some instances below these figures. One West Virginia concern has cut wages to $2.88 a day for underground men and $2.80 for work above ground. Similar rates are paid in the anti-union sections of Kentucky.

The United Mine Workers' Journal calls attention to the coal owners' claim that union wages prevent them from marketing coal. This claim is a trick. They have secured wage reductions, but they are not selling coal. Government reports show that in the anti-union fields of Somerset county and in West Virginia production is no greater than in the organized fields, where a living wage is demanded.

PROTEST CONVICT LABOR: UNIONISTS ARE ANGRY

Tampa, Fla., July 12.—Trade unionists of this state are angry at Governor Martin's veto of a bill to re-introduce convict labor into this state. The last legislature prohibited the leasing of convicts, but this has been ignored by the governor, who has arranged to have convicts manufacture shirts for construction camps.

The governor stated that the state prison farm is not self-sustaining and cannot be made so. The state central body reminded the chief executive that he has dealt a body blow to the state by his declaration that Florida with all its resources "cannot find land productive enough to work it." If this is true, the trade unionists point out, there is no opportunity in Florida for the homeseeker.

The unionists declare that the leasing contract is a disgrace and that public opinion should make its enforcement impossible. Practically every state has passed or is preparing to pass legislation curtailing the employment of convicts, but this law still comes in competition with free labor, due to the unfairness of such competition, the unions claim. It subjects the prisoners to, and the insanitary conditions that goods are produced under, the unionists declare.

LABOR LAW VIOLATORS ARE FORCED TO CHANGE

Morgantown, W. Va., July 12.—The central labor union has won its fight to compel the Stadium corporation of this city, the eight-hour and other laws of this state. The unionists are engaged in the building and construction industry. The state labor department has ruled that the contract should observe the eight-hour law, but the Stadium corporation insisted that the law did not apply to them. As the corporation operates on the anti-union basis, it was impossible to force the Stadium corporation to secure compliance, and the federal department of labor was asked to send a representative here. The department of labor official ruled that hereafter the law would be observed. The federal representative has now attempted to adjust differences between the unions and the company.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES

Everett, Wash., July 12.—Newspaper printers have secured a three-year contract and what is declared to be the best wage scale for printers in communities outside of Seattle. Rates have been advanced $2 per day for day work and 2 cents for night work. This makes the new scale $7.50 and $8.40.

OIL WORKERS UNITING

Long Beach, Cal., July 12.—Oil workers in this state are engaged in an active organizing campaign. These unionists point out that the eight-hour law as one result of organized effort. California is the one state that produces oil under the eight-hour system.

BAKERS DEFEAT WAGE CUT

Chicago, July 12.—After a four-weeks' strike, Jewish bakers have defeated an attempt to cut wages $6 a week.

MACHINERY DISPLACES LABOR; PRODUCTION MAKES RECORD

Washington, July 12.—In the last 13 years automatic machinery production has increased to "an almost inconceivable extent," according to the United States patent office, in announcing the one and one-half millionth patent issued since the present patent office came into existence.

The statement is a thumb-nail sketch of the social and economic upheavals machinery has wrought since 1836.

The period from 1836 to 1893, the statement says, "saw more changes that profoundly affected civilization, our mode of living, our health and progress, than any 1,000 years previously. For during this period the face of the advanced nations of the earth altered materially, changing primarily from cultural to industrial countries.

"During these 57 years an evolution of profound depth, of far-reaching effect, was produced. The steam engine was perfected and its application to machinery and transportation made effective and universal; the whole art of electrical generation of power, its transmission and utilization was invented and applied; electrical lighting, heating and communication established; industrial chemistry became a force and a standard of industrial progress. Labor-saving machinery impressed itself for the first time generally as a universal factor in our industrial life, and the internal-combustion engine and all its tremendously important implications, was developed and applied.

"The second period, from 1893 to 1911, although being considerably shorter, still produced such far-reaching inventions as the automobile, the aeroplane and wireless communication. During this period the inventions of the first period were consolidated, refined and more extensively applied, especially in quantity production by labor-saving devices, the use of electricity for power for machinery and transportation, and the perfection of the automatic machine.

"The era covering the last 13 years is notable mostly for generally intensive pursuit of improvements, particularly in the multiplying of the effectiveness of the laborer's service, leading to 'automatic machinery,' whereby direct application of manual labor is almost eliminated and production increased to an almost inconceivable extent."

BIG GARMENT STRIKE CHECKED BY MEDIATORS

New York, July 12.—A general garment strike, involving 50,000 workers, has been averted. Manufacturers and jobbers accepting recommendations made by a commission appointed by Governor Smith to consider several demands by these workers. The commission is headed by George Gordon Battle, well-known attorney.

The unionists convinced the commission that jobbers are wrecking the inroads of manufacturers, who bid against each other for his contract. The jobber puts a label on the line and the manufacturer's be placed on these goods.

The commission takes its stand with the union against the fly-by-night, the sweat shop and the irresponsible who are playing workers one against the other. The commission recommends the union shop, and for the workers to be employed, or employed, of lists of persons with whom each side is dealing.

No member of the manufacturers' association shall give work to a new manufacturer or purchase goods from him before ascertaining from the manufacturers' association that he is in contractural relations with the union.

"Whenever it shall appear that a member of the manufacturers' association gives work to a non-union manufacturer the association shall be empowered to withdraw his work from such non-union manufacturer, whether such work be in process of operation or otherwise, until the manufacturer enters in contractural relations with the union."

A joint unemployment insurance maintained by contributions from employers and employed is recommended, as is the appointment of an impartial board for the settlement of future differences.

GREEDY SHIP OWNERS IGNORE SEAMEN'S LAW

San Francisco, July 12.—Local representatives of the department of commerce are aiding ship owners to evade the language test of the seamen's law and organized labor has forwarded protests to Secretary of Commerce Hoover.

The law provides that 75 per cent of a ship's crew must be able to understand orders of officers. The new law is essential to safety at sea, but ship owners, with very few exceptions, have ignored the act.

Officers of the Seamen's union filed complaint against the Garland steamship company. Two of this company's vessels carry complete crews of Chinese. When a demand was made that every seaman must speak the English language test, the captain was very generously given 72 hours to prepare his yellow crew for the trial.

A detective agency was employed to keep any inquisitive representative of the Seamen's union from the examination.

"Of course, the Chinese passed the test with flying colors in view of the secret maneuvering and the grace period of 72 hours," said the Seamen's Journal.

FAVORS NO-PARTY PLAN

Washington, July 12.—A plea by Dr. William C. Bagley of Columbia university for political non-partisanship was applauded by the general assembly of the National education association in session here.

The educator insisted that teachers throw their votes en masse to the political organization that promises to do the most to promote education.

"The lesson for us seems tolerably clear," said Dr. Bagley, who pointed out that other groups are willing to disregard party lines, and that teachers and educators should do likewise.

WANT HIGHER WAGES

Atlantic City, N. J., July 12.—Higher wages was the subject of many resolutions introduced at the annual convention of the Brotherhood of Operative Potters. Wage increases will be considered by a conference of unionists and employers next fall.

MILLIONAIRES INCREASE; RICH BUY TAX EXEMPTS

Washington, July 12.—Income tax returns contradict the claim of Secretary of the Treasury Mellon that rich men are investing their money in tax-exempt securities rather than industry. The bureau of internal revenue shows that the Mellon claim is one of the year's great hoaxes. It is stated that 67 individuals report they received net incomes of $1,000,000 or more for the year 1923. This more than tripled the 21 millionaires in the previous year.

The bureau's report will undoubtedly lend weight to the fight waged by Secretary Mellon and banking interests to prohibit states, counties and other political units from issuing tax-exempt securities.

Friends of these securities insist that the money raised is not taken out of production but is put into waterworks, schoolhouses, roads, public buildings and other social necessities. They also claim that if the issuance of tax-exempts is stopped the securities held by banks will increase in value.

Opponents of tax-exempts claim that rich men buy these securities and take their money out of circulation. This, they insist, is a "hard-timed" factor. The government report disputes this claim.

The grand total income throughout the entire country was $21,336,212,593. This is an increase of $1,750,000,000 over the previous year. Only 2.4-5 per cent of all the people filed reports.

The law provides that unmarried persons having an annual income of $1,000 or more and married persons having an income of $2,000 or more shall file reports. It is now shown that only 6 out of every 100 have an income of at least $1,000 or $2,000. The number reporting was slightly lower than the previous year.

"LABOR COMMODITY" THEORY IS RECALLED

Washington, July 12.—"The capitalistic premise that labor is a commodity is recognized" in a statement contained in the president's veto of the postal workers' pay bill, says Wm. M. Collins, president of the Railway mail association. In vetoing the bill, the president says:

"I am informed there is generally no difficulty in maintaining a list of eligibles in fill vacancies. There are certain localities where difficulty exists * * * due to high cost of living and higher wage scales."

"In other words," said President Collins, "the wage to be paid, regardless of the character of service rendered, is to depend upon the supply of labor in the market."

SIMPLER STANDARDS PROVE GOOD ECONOMY

Washington, July 12.—A saving of $250,000,000 a year to the lumber industry, resulting from the adoption of an agreement providing for a reduction in the number of finished yard-lumber items, is assured, according to the department of commerce.

Through a process of simplification and standardization the lumber industry has reduced its items by 60 per cent, with the enormous saving indicated. Other industries that have adopted simplified programs are the forged tool group, range boiler group, blackboard and roofing slate and the paper industry.

MILL BARONS BLAMED

Augusta, Ga., July 12.—The Labor Review of this city blames textile manufacturers for the defeat of the federal child labor amendment. In the house the proposal received three votes out of 175, and in the senate not one vote was recorded against child labor.

"All of the speeches were indicative of the strong hold the mill interests of Georgia and child labor exploiters exert over the lawmakers of the state," the Labor Review said.

CARPENTERS TO MEET

Indianapolis, July 12.—The annual convention of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners will convene in this city beginning Monday, September 8.